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## REPORT

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1. The supply situation in Cheb (N51/P37) is quite good, with the exception of meat and fats. But even in this respect conditions are better than inland. However, the prices of foodstuffs and all other consumer goods, in comparison to the wages and salaries, are too high. Shortage of money is the most general complaint among the people. 25X1
2. The mood of the population can be described as irritable, chiefly because of the mentioned lack of money and general tiredness. Very little attention is paid to international events. Chief interest is centered on bare existence. Most people seek extra earnings in overtime brigades and married women not yet employed try to get whatever jobs are available in order to keep their families fed and clad. Non-paid "voluntary" labor brigades are almost universally ignored. Newspapers, with the exception of the sports page, remain unread. The Prague radio is boycotted and the RFE, since the establishment of the jamming station in Stara Role (N51/P69) near Karlovy Vary, is almost inaudible. As a result of all these factors the originally lively interest in the activities of the Czech exiles subsided lately and is gradually turning into apathy. The future fate of the country, and that of Europe, is nowadays discussed with concern only by a handful of people, while in the past years it used to be the focal point of everybody's interest. People know that nothing much has happened during the seven years since the Communist putsch to curb the might of Communism and are beginning to accept their seemingly inevitable fate. They have learned to call the ruling Communist clique "pani" (overlords) and are beginning to say that some "pani" always were, are, and will be. At the same time they feel that the Czech exiles lack a strong personality of the Masaryk or Benes type capable of organizing an effective liberation movement. The intelligentsia, former artisans, shopkeepers, and the farmers are still opposed to Communism but feel powerless to oppose it in any active way. The workers are mostly apathetic. Even the Big Four conference failed to rouse the people out of their apathy to any great extent.

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